

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68- 54 Building Date: ca. 1925
Building Name: Mt. Rainier Auto Body
Location: 3249 Rhode Island Avenue, Mt. Rainier, Maryland
Private/Commercial/Occupied/Fair/Restricted

Description

3249 Rhode Island Avenue is a one story, three-bay concrete block commercial building with a rectangular plan and a crenellated parapet concealing an asphalt shingle gable roof. The main (north) facade is also constructed of concrete blocks that are painted white. The facade's decorative details are picked out by raised chamfered edge blocks. The east and west edges of the facade are quoined and the entire facade terminates in a crenellated parapet that is stepped at its center. The three bay facade has two large plate glass windows at the east and center bay. The center bay contains a single glass and metal entry door at its western edge. The westernmost bay contains a single overhead garage door leading to the rear of the building behind the two bay office to the east. Although the west garage door and the center bay entry door are non-historic, the remainder of the building maintains an early character. Two of the openings in the crenellated parapet at the center have been filled in unsympathetically within cinder blocks, effectively enlarging the stepped center portion of the parapet. There is a sign or name picked out in raised blocks across the facade below the parapet that is presently obscured by non-historic signage and undecipherable.

Significance

The one story, concrete block commercial building at 3249 Rhode Island Avenue is significant to the architectural and commercial development of downtown Mt. Rainier and contributes to the survey area's early 20th century streetscape. There are a number of buildings that use cinder blocks as a secondary, structural material but the building at 3249 is unique in that it is the only structure to employ the material for the architectural and decorative effect of its main, street front facade. The quoining and crenellated parapet give the otherwise straight forward facade visual interest and prominence in the small scale streetscape along Rhode Island Avenue. The present building appears to be the original improvement on Lot 6. It was apparently constructed by 1925. Lot 6 was then owned by Rufus E. and Maude E. Milor. Milor was a local realtor and developer who had purchased the lot from James C. and Blance R. Rogers in October of 1923 and retained ownership until May of 1944. The building is also significant to the commercial development of downtown Mt. Rainier with its long history of occupation by automobile and transportation related businesses.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Mt. Rainier Auto Body

2. Location

street & number 3249 Rhode Island Avenue (U.S. Route 1) not for publicationcity, town Mt. Rainier vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> X </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> X </u> building(s)	<u> X </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> X </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> X </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> X </u> transportation
	<u> X </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Orchid Properties

street & number P.O. Box 3099 Woodmoor telephone no.:

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code 20901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 2831

street & number Main Street folio 345

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date 1981 federal state X county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, M-NCPPC, CAB, Rm. 40

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#68-54

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

3249 Rhode Island Avenue is a one story, three-bay concrete block commercial building with a rectangular plan and a crenellated parapet concealing an asphalt shingle gable roof. (See Slides #119 and 131). The main (north) facade is also constructed of concrete blocks that are painted white. The facade's decorative details are picked out by raised chamfered edge blocks. The east and west edges of the facade are quoined and the entire facade terminates in a crenellated parapet that is stepped at its center. The three bay facade has two large plate glass windows at the east and center bay. The center bay contains a single glass and metal entry door at its western edge. The westernmost bay contains a single overhead garage door leading to the rear of the building behind the two bay office to the east.

Although the west garage door and the center bay entry door are non-historic, the remainder of the building maintains an early character. Two of the openings in the crenellated parapet at the center have been filled in unsympathetically within cinder blocks, effectively enlarging the stepped center portion of the parapet. There is a sign or name picked out in raised blocks across the facade below the parapet that is presently obscured by non-historic signage and undecipherable.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#68-54

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1925

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

CONTRIBUTING

The one story, concrete block commercial building at 3249 Rhode Island Avenue (Block 1, Lot 6, Roger's Second Addition to Mt. Rainier) is significant to the architectural and commercial development of downtown Mt. Rainier and contributes to the survey area's early 20th century streetscape. There are a number of buildings within the survey area that use cinder blocks as a secondary, structural material but the building at 3249 is unique in that it is the only structure to employ the material for the architectural and decorative effect of its main, street front facade. The quoining and crenellated parapet give the otherwise straight forward facade visual interest and prominence in the small scale streetscape along Rhode Island Avenue.

The present building appears to be the original improvement on Lot 6. It was apparently constructed by 1925, when an improvement valued at \$7,000 is first indicated in assessment records.¹ Lot 6 was then owned by Rufus E. and Maude E. Milor. Milor was a local realtor and developer who had purchased the lot from James C. and Blance R. Rogers in October of 1923 and retained ownership until May of 1944.²

The building is also significant to the commercial development of downtown Mt. Rainier with its long history of occupation by automobile and transportation related businesses. The building currently houses the Mt. Rainier Auto Body Shop. The building's association with the maintenance and sale of automobiles can be dated to at least 1939, when a fire insurance map indicates the presence of an "auto sales and service" business.³ As the present building maintains an early character, the automobile related use may be original to the building and the purpose for which it was designed and built.

Notes

1 Prince George's County Assessment Records, E.D.,17, 1925, p. 164

2 Prince George's County Land Records, 203:171, 728:162.

3 Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1939, p. 201, 1939 corrected to 1954, p. 201.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #68-54

See Notes, #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Washington East

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Howard S. Berger, Consultant		
organization	Historic Preservation Commission	date	March 1988
street & number	14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive	telephone	(301) 952-4609
city or town	Upper Marlboro	state	Maryland 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

P.G. 68-54
Chain of Title
3249 Rhode Island Avenue

2831:345
17 June 1963
Deed

Benjamin and Isabella Striner to Orchid Properties, Inc. Grantors convey Lot 6 in Block 1 of Roger's Second Addition to Mt. Rainier. Plat recorded BDS1:48. Same obtained from Lulla N. and Arthur V. Kay, 30 April 1945, 786:83.

786:83
30 April 1945
Deed

Lulla N. and Arthur V. Kay to Benjamin and Isabella Striner. Grantors convey Lot 6 in Block 1. Same obtained from Rufus E. and Maude E. Milor, 7 May 1944, 728:162.

728:162
7 May 1944
Deed

Rufus E. and Maude E. Milor to Lulla N. Kay. Grantors convey Lot 6 in Block 1. Same obtained from James C. and Blanche R. Rogers, 4 October 1923, 203:171.

203:171
4 October 1923
Deed

James C. and Blanche E. Rogers to Rufus E. and Maude E. Milor. Grantors convey Lot 6 in Block 1. To clear title, this deed is made.

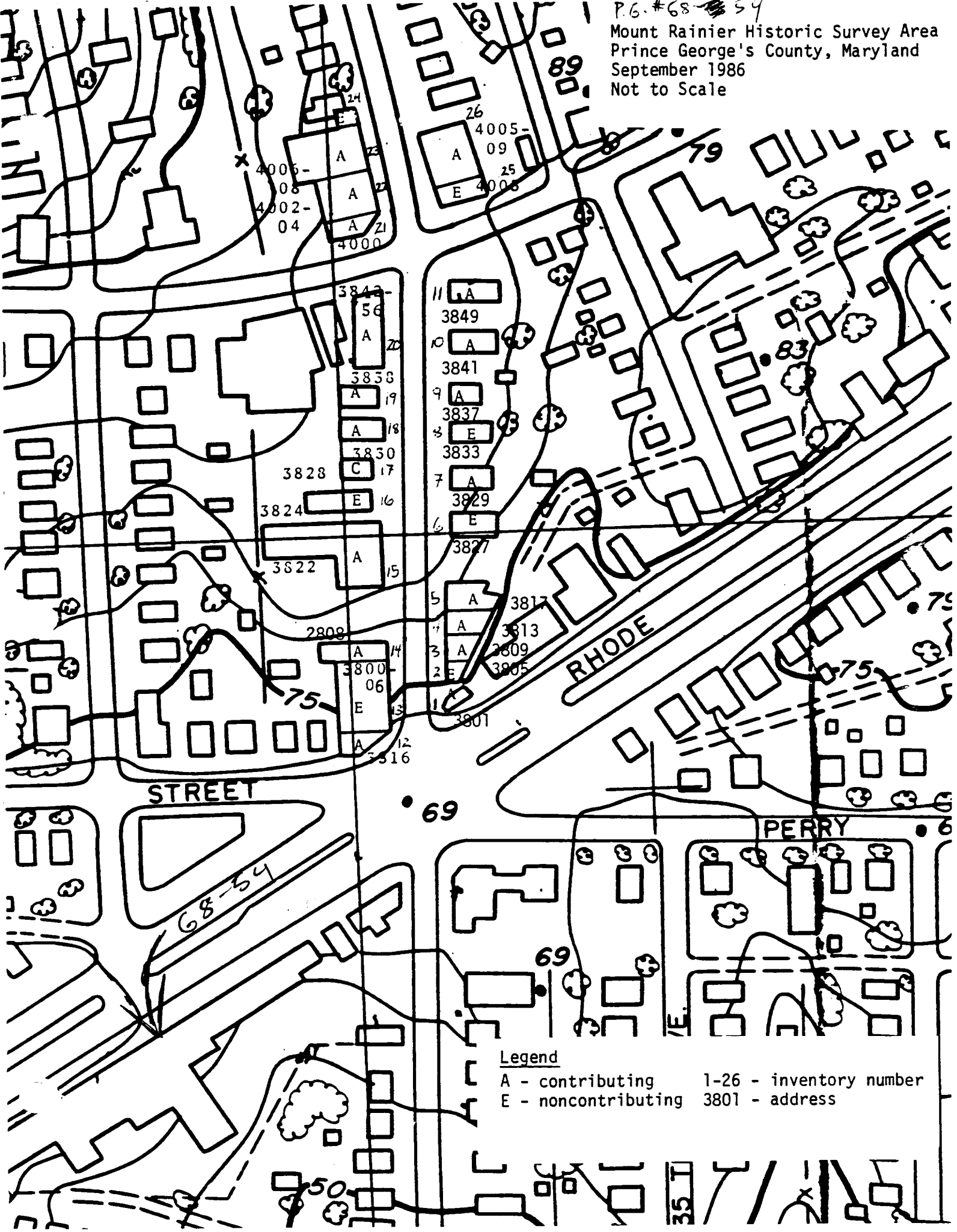
Mount Rainier Historic Survey Area
Prince George's County, Maryland
September 1986
Not to Scale

Mount Rainier Historic Survey Area
Prince George's County, Maryland
September 1986
Not to Scale

Prince George's County, Maryland

September 1986

Not to Scale



Legend

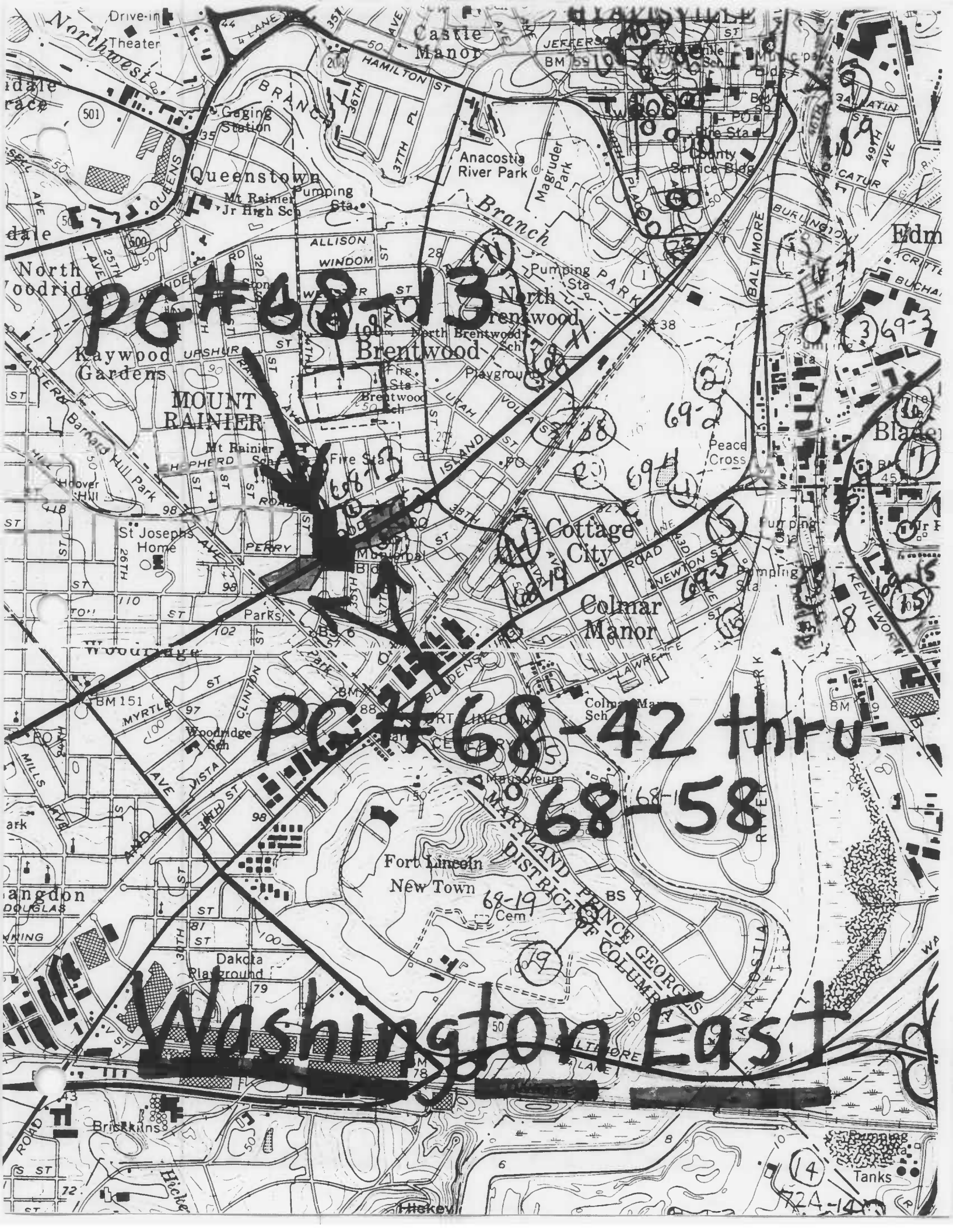
A - contributing

E - noncontributing

1-26 - inventory number

3801 - address





PG#68-13

PG#68-42 thru
68-58

Washington East



Perm 65-4
414. Kainier Auto Pol
3249 Rhode Island
Prince George's County, MD
Howard Reger
Oct. 1987

Reg: MD Historical
Inst
Annapolis, MD